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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

*I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2006.*

Sarah C. Carranceja  
Sarah C. Carranceja

Applicant	: Xian Yao, et al.	Confirmation No. 5454
Application No.	: 10/731,710	
Filed	: December 9, 2003	
Title	: METHOD FOR FORMING ULTRA HARD SINTERED COMPACTS USING METALLIC PERIPHERAL STRUCTURES IN THE SINTERING CELL	

Confirmation No. 5454

Grp./Div. : 1742  
Examiner : Weiping Zhu

Docket No. : 50547/M277

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
December 5, 2006

Commissioner:

Enclosed is an amendment to the above-identified application.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED						
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Paid For	Number Extra Claims	Small Entity Rate	Large Entity Rate	FEE
Total Claims Fee	33	*34	0	x \$25.00	0 x \$50.00	0.00
Independent Claims	4	** 4	0	x \$100.00	0 x \$200.00	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims ***				\$180.00	\$360.00	0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE						0.00
NO ADDITIONAL FEE REQUIRED	IF NO FEE REQUIRED, INSERT "0"					0.00
LIST INDEPENDENT CLAIMS: 1, 21, 23, 34						

**Amendment Transmittal Letter**  
**Application No. 10/731,710**

\* IF HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR IS 20 OR LESS, WRITE "20" IN COLUMN 3  
\*\* IF HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR IS 3 OR LESS, WRITE "3" IN COLUMN 3  
\*\*\* PAY THIS FEE ONLY WHEN MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS ARE ADDED FOR THE FIRST  
TIME

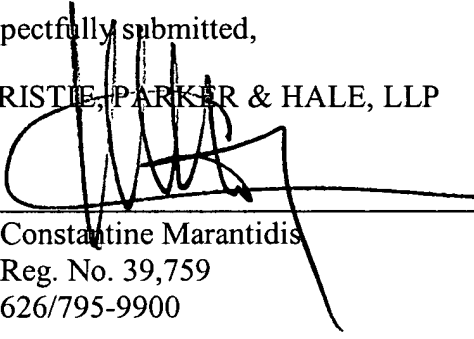
\_\_\_\_\_ Attached is our check for \$ to pay the fees calculated above.  
\_\_\_\_\_ A Petition for Extension of Time and the required fee are enclosed.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other enclosures:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by or to give effect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 03-1728. Please show our docket number with any charge or credit to our Deposit Account. **A copy of this letter is enclosed.**

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE PARKER & HALE, LLP

By

  
Constantine Marantidis  
Reg. No. 39,759  
626/795-9900

CM/scc

SCC PAS709550.1-\* -12/5/06 9:09 AM



PATENT  
RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 1742

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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Sarah C. Carranceja

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USING METALLIC PERIPHERAL STRUCTURES IN THE SINTERING  
CELL  
  
TC/A.U. : 1742  
Examiner : Weiping Zhu  
  
Docket No. : 50547/M277  
  
Customer No. : 23363

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068  
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068  
December 5, 2006

Commissioner:

In response to the Office action mailed on October 10, 2006, Applicant has the following remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** in the listing of claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.